

REMARKS

Claims 40-43 are pending in the present application. The Examiner has rejected Claims 40-43 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,966,671 (Mitchell) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,529,713 (Seymour), and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,873,317 (Griffin), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,157,323 (Tso). Mitchell discloses a radiotelephone having an auxiliary actuator and method for operating said radiotelephone; Seymour discloses a handset; Griffin discloses a hand-held electronic device with a keyboard optimized for use with the thumbs; and, Tso discloses a button-key/cylindrical-key alphabetizer.

Claim 40 has been amended as set forth herein to more clearly connect the manipulation of the multi-function key with the movement of the cursor and the selection of the character or digit, which is not disclosed or suggested in the cited references, or their combination.

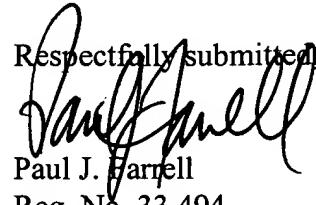
Claim 41 has also been amended as set forth herein to more clearly recite that each manipulation generates one of a first sub-input signal and a second sub-input signal, said first sub-input signal is generated if the manipulation is performed for a short duration, and said second sub-input signal is generated if the manipulation is performed for a long duration, which is not disclosed or suggested in the cited references, or their combination.

Based on at least the foregoing amendments, withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 40-43 is respectfully requested.

Without conceding patentability per se of dependent Claims 41-43, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 41-43 are believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on Claim 40.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 40-43, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul J. Farrell

Reg. No. 33,494

Attorney for Applicant(s)

DILWORTH & BARRESE, LLP
333 Earle Ovington Blvd.
Uniondale, New York 11553
Tel: (516) 228-8484
Fax: (516) 228-8516